

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KABUL

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - F I R S T L I N E O F Q U E S T I O N T O W A R D E N D
O F M S G M I S S I N G

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT:EXCERPTS FROM BHUTTO'S PRESS CONFERENCE,
FEBRUARY 5, 1975

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPTS
FROM PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN
WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 5. IT IS TRANSMITTED FOR BACK-
GROUND OF RECIPIENT POSTS. GOP HAS NOT RELEASED TEXT.

2. "THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR RESPONDING TO OUR INVITATION,
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IT WAS VERY KIND OF YOU TO TAKE THE TROUBLE. NOW, I CAN
KEEP ON TALKING FOR A LONG TIME, BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO
THAT. IF YOU ASK ME QUESTIONS I THINK THAT WOULD BE
BETTER AND AFTERWARDS I MIGHT IF THAT IS NECESSARY.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT THE STATEMENT WE WERE GIVEN THIS MORNING THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL GIVE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION TO DROPPING THE ARMS EMBARGO. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN AND HOW SOON MIGHT THIS TAKE PLACE?

A. ACTIVE CONSIDERATION MEANS THAT ITS NOT INACTIVE AND THAT ITS A LIVE ISSUE BEING DISCUSSED AND I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT COMPLICATE THE DECISION BUT I

THINK THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS ADEQUATELY COVERED THE SCOPE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER CAN YOU TELL US WHAT IT IS YOU ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN AT THIS STAGE THROUGH A LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO?

A. NOT ONLY ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE WEAPONS BUT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY, I WOULD SAY EXCLUSIVELY, DEFENSIVE WEAPONS FOR OUR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS. INDIA IS NOT OUR ONLY NEIGHBOR, WE HAVE OTHER NEIGHBORS AS WELL AS WE LIVE IN A VOLATILE (?) PART OF THE WORLD, PART OF THE WORLD WHICH IS PASSING THROUGH A METAMORPHOSIS AND EVERY COUNTRY'S SECURITY NEEDS ARE (WORD INDISTINCT) MOBILE AND WE HAVE A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN OUR SECURITY. OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN DISMEMBERED AND WE DO FEEL THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ADEQUATE MEASURES TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY.

Q. IT WAS BEING GIVEN ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BEFORE YOU ARRIVED AND YOU SAY IT IS A LIVE ISSUE PRESUMABLY YOU ARE MUCH HAPPIER NOW YOU SEE SOMETHING IS IN THE MAKING.

A. WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER NOW FOR TEN YEARS. TEN YEARS IS A VERY LONG TIME AND AS FAR AS MY GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, OUR GOVERNMENT, THAT WE HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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DISCUSSING THIS QUESTION FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS AND SO IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT HOPEFUL NOW, BUT I WAS HOPEFUL EVEN THREE YEARS AGO.

Q. HOW HOPEFUL ARE YOU NOW? THE PRESIDENT OBVIOUSLY HASN'T SAID NO.

A. NOR HAS HE SAID CATEGORICALLY YES.

Q. BUT YOU ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC?

A. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST, WE ARE TRYING OUR BEST.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER WHEN YOU SAY DEFENSIVE WEAPONS COULD YOU GIVE US ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC - DO YOU MEAN SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, DO YOU MEAN INTERCEPTOR FIGHTERS, DO YOU MEAN TANKS?

A. ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, PROTECTIVE MISSILES AGAINST AIR ATTACKS, THE KIND OF PROJECT LIKE THE INDIGO PROJECT THAT WAS GIVEN TO INDIA, IT WAS CALLED PEACE INDIGO WASN'T IT, FOR AN UMBRELLA FOR AIR DEFENSE NEEDS.

Q. INTERCEPTOR FIGHTERS?

A. NO, NOT AT THE MOMENT, NOR I THINK IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER WHAT REACTION DO YOU ANTICIPATE FROM INDIA IF THE EMBARGO SHOULD BE LIFTED AND TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD THE SECURITY ON THE SOUTH ASIAN SUBCONTINENT BE ENHANCED BY LIFTING THE EMBARGO?

A. PAKISTAN IS AT THE SIZE OF ONE PROVINCE OF INDIA AND BOTH IN TERMS OF SIZE AND POPULATION ONE PROVINCE ONLY OF INDIA AND WE CANNOT BE IN AN ARMS RACE. INDIA IS WAY AHEAD OF US THERE IS NO QUESTION OF AN ARMS RACE TAKING PLACE. INDIA GETS MASSIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION, SHE HAS HER OWN POTENTIAL, SHE'S NOW NUCLEAR, SHE'S A NUCLEAR POWER, AND I ENTIRELY AGREE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, IF IT WERE TO BE LIFTED, WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO AN ARMS RACE, WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADDING OF TENSIONS. IF ANYTHING IT WILL BE A STABILIZING FACTOR. THIS HAS BEEN THE POSITION IN THE PAST WHEN THE EMBARGO DID NOT EXIST. THERE WAS PEACE ON THE SUBCONTINENT AND WE WERE NOT DISMEMBERED BUT WE'RE NOT SEEKING PARITY, I EMPHASIZE, WITH INDIA. INDIA'S CONCEPT OF SECURITY THAT THERE MUST BE TOTAL SECURITY OF INDIA AND TOTAL INSECURITY OF PAKISTAN. THAT'S NOT OUR CONCEPT OF SECURITY. THERE WILL BE A LITTLE NOISE, THERE'LL BE A STORM IN A TEA CUP. THERE WILL BE SOME DEMONSTRATION, I SUPPOSE, OUTSIDE YOUR EMBASSY, BUT FINALLY THE POINT IS THAT INDIA NEEDS THE SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE COOPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES. ITS NOT THAT ITS THE OTHER WAY AROUND. INDIA'S OWN ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS ARE SUCH THAT IT IS IN INDIA'S INTEREST TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER YOU'VE BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT

IF YOUR CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS NEEDS WERE NOT MET YOU MIGHT HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ACCELERATING YOUR NUCLEAR PROGRAM TO MATCH INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION LAST MAY. I WONDER WHAT YOUR THINKING IS AT THE CURRENT TIME AFTER TALKING TO MR. KISSINGER AND THE PRESIDENT ON THE FUTURE OF PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM? ARE YOU WILLING TO RENOUNCE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, FOR INSTANCE?

A. OUR NUCLEAR POLICY IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND RECONSIDERATION AND OUR NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ALL THE NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS. BUT THIS MATTER IS UNDER OUR CONSIDERATION. IT DEPENDS ALSO ON THE KIND OF DECISION THAT IS TAKEN HERE.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING IN OTHER WORDS IF YOUR CONVENTIONAL WEAPON NEEDS ARE MET YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER SAFEGUARDS ON YOUR NUCLEAR REACTOR PROGRAMS?

A. WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER THAT.
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Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER, TO THE EXTENT OF RATIFYING AND SIGNING THE NPT?

A. THE POINT IS THAT WE HAVE NOT SIGNED THE NPT AND WE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO SIGN THE NPT, NOT BECAUSE WE WANT TO GO NUCLEAR OR WE WANT TO HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT BECAUSE OF MORAL CONSIDERATION. INDIA HAS NOT SIGNED THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND IF WE CAN GET ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS OR OTHERWISE BILATERALLY THEN, OF COURSE, THAT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER. BUT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY ADEQUATE POLITICAL SAFEGUARDS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NPT STRICTLY ON MORAL CONSIDERATIONS.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE TIME IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS SPENT ON THE EMBARGO ISSUE?

A. I WOULD SAY ROUGHLY ABOUT HALF THE TIME.

Q. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE DECISIONS YOU'VE ACHIEVED ON THE GRAIN PROBLEM, SIR?

A. YES, WE'RE NOT ONLY SATISFIED BUT VERY THANKFUL TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE ASSISTANCE THEY ARE GIVING US IN A VERY DIFFICULT AND TIGHT SITUATION WHICH WE FACE TODAY.

Q. IS THERE A SPECIFIC AMOUNT THAT IS NOW WORKED OUT, DOES IT MEET YOUR 400,000 TONS NEED, AS I UNDERSTAND IT?

A. YES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE 100,000 TONS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN.

Q. SO YOUR GETTING ANOTHER 300,000 TONS?

A. THAT'S CORRECT.

Q. IS THAT ALL PL 480 ASSISTANCE?
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A. THAT IS SO.

Q. YOU MUST HAVE SOME EXPECTATION I WOULD IMAGINE AS YOU LEAVE HERE WHEN YOU WILL SEE A DECISION ON THE EMBARGO QUESTION. IS IT A MATTER OF WEEKS OR A MATTER OF MONTHS?

A. THIS IS A QUESTION FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE. IT WILL ACTUALLY HAVE TO COMPLY WITH ITS OWN PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS IF IT TAKES A POSITIVE DECISION.

Q. DO YOU HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD SUPPORT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO?

A. I'VE BEEN SPEAKING TO THE SENATORS TODAY, THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND TOMORROW ALSO I WILL SPEAK TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE. AND THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAD TODAY WERE GOOD I WOULD SAY. JUDGING FROM MY OWN ASSESSMENT OF THE REACTIONS OF THE SENATORS IT SEEMED THAT OUR CASE DID NOT FALL ON DEAF EARS.

Q. ON THE EMBARGO QUESTION, IS THERE ANY INTERMEDIATE GROUND THERE, IS THERE ANY OPTION FOR PARTIAL REMOVAL OF THE EMBARGO THAT WOULD SATISFY PAKISTAN'S REQUIREMENTS?

A. IT'S A PRINCIPLE THAT IS INVOLVED HERE. WE DISCUSSED THE PRINCIPLE OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO. WE DO NOT SEE ANY VALID REASONS FOR IMPOSING AN EMBARGO ON PAKISTAN. PAKISTAN IS AN ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES AND AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THE OTHER DAY IT'S A CURIOUS ANOMALY TO HAVE AN EMBARGO ON AMERICAN ARMS FOR AN AMERICAN ALLY. I WOULD ENDORSE THAT AND I WOULD SAY THAT IT'S NOT ONLY CURIOUS BUT IT'S CRUEL.

Q. DID YOU, WHILE YOU WERE HERE, DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING ANY PART OF YOUR COUNTRY TO BE USED BY AMERICAN MILITARY, PERSONNEL, OR ANY OF THAT?

A. THAT'S NOT CORRECT. THERE WERE SOME PRESS REPORTS
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TO THAT EFFECT, BUT THAT IS NOT CORRECT.

Q. AND THAT WAS NOT DISCUSSED?

A. NO, IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED NOR WAS IT DISCUSSED ON MY
PREVIOUS VISIT IN THAT SENSE. IT WAS SAID THAT PAKISTAN
HAD OFFERED BASES TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS NOT
TRUE. WE DIDN'T OFFER ANY BASES, BUT OUR POSITION ON
DIEGO GARCIA, FOR INSTANCE, IS NOT THAT WHICH HAS BEEN
TAKEN BY SOME OTHER COUNTRIES. WE CANNOT PREVENT GREAT
POWERS, THE SUPER POWERS, FROM PURSUING THEIR OWN
POLICY IN OTHER COUNTRIES, OR IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.
WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THAT. ALL WE HAVE CONTROL OF
IS OUR OWN COUNTRY. AND WE HAVE NOT PURSUED A POLICY
OF GIVING BASES TO ANY COUNTRY EITHER TO THE SOVIET
UNION OR TO THE UNITED STATES.

Q. SIR, WHAT REMAINS ON YOUR AGENDA HERE? YOU'RE SEEING
DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, AMONG OTHERS, TOMORROW.
WILL YOU BE GOING INTO A DETAILED RUNDOWN ON HARDWARE
WITH HIM?

A. HOW COULD I? UNTIL THE DECISION IS TAKEN TO LIFT
THE EMBARGO IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR ME TO GO INTO
THOSE QUESTIONS.

Q. I ASSUMED YOU MIGHT HAVE A SHOPPING LIST.

A. WE HAVE NOT GOT A SHOPPING LIST.

Q. IN YOUR DISCUSSION OF THE ARMS EMBARGO WAS THERE
ANY DISCUSSION OF THE END USE TO WHICH THE AMERICAN
WEAPONS WOULD BE PUT?

A. NO, NOT AT ALL. THE QUESTION IS THAT WE DISCUSSED
THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF THE EMBARGO. WE DID NOT LINK
IT UP WITH ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. TOMORROW IF INDIA
CHOOSES TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF CONFRONTATION IT WILL BE
HER OWN POLICY, HER DECISION. WE HAVE NOT PURSUED THAT
POLICY AND THAT DECISION. KISSINGER

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